

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name PERRING BUILDING

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number 115 N.W. 3rd and 118 N.W. 2nd STREETS ☐ not for publication

city or town ABILENE ☐ vicinity

state KANSAS code KS county DICKINSON code 041 zip code 67410

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ~~XXX~~ nomination ☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ~~XXX~~ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant ☐ nationally ☐ statewide ~~XXX~~ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Richard D. Parkhurst NOVEMBER 16, 1998
Signature of certifying official/Title Date
KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

State of Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property ☐ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Signature of certifying official/Title Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

- ☐ entered in the National Register.
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined eligible for the National Register
☐ See continuation sheet.
- ☐ determined not eligible for the National Register.
- ☐ removed from the National Register.
- ☐ other, (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Name of Property

County and State

5. Classification**Ownership of Property**

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☒ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☐ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☒ building(s)
☐ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing
1	
	buildings
	sites
	structures
	objects
1	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use**Historic Functions**

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business, restaurant

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

COMMERCE/TRADE: business

7. Description**Architectural Classification**

(Enter categories from instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN: Italianate, Romanesque

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: limestone

walls BRICK

roof SYNTHETICS

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

Name of Property

County and State

8. Statement of Significance**Applicable National Register Criteria**

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☐ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☐ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1902-1904

Significant Dates

1902-1904

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

UNKNOWN

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References**Bibliography**

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☐ previously listed in the National Register
- ☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☐ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

PERRING BUILDING
Name of Property

DICKINSON COUNTY, KANSAS
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property LESS THAN ONE ACRE

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 1 4 6 5 4 8 1 0 4 3 0 8 9 0 0
Zone Easting Northing
2

3
Zone Easting Northing
4

☐ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title MARTHA HAGEDORN-KRASS, ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN
organization KANSAS STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY date NOVEMBER 16, 1998
street & number 6425 S.W. 6th telephone 785-272-8681, ex. 240
city or town TOPEKA state KANSAS zip code 66615

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

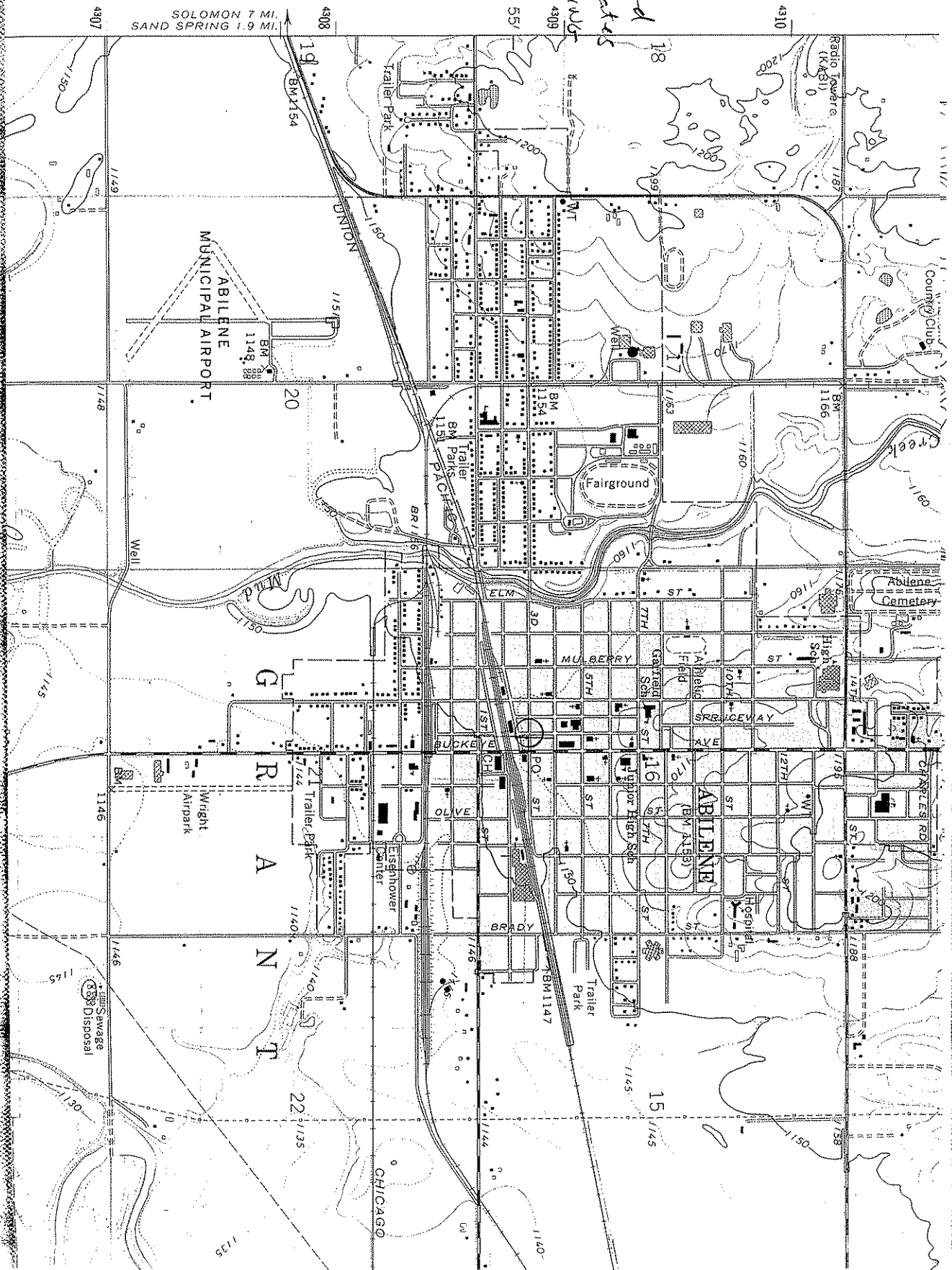
(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name STEWART AND LINDA ETHERINGTON
street & number 115 N.W. 3rd Street telephone
city or town Abilene state Kansas zip code 67410

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

ABILENE Quad
The coordinates
Perry Building
14165 48101 55
4308900



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National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

Section number 7 Page 1

The Perring Building (c. 1902- 1904) is located at 115 N. W. 3rd and 118 N. W. 2nd Street in Abilene, Kansas (pop. 6,500). The two-story red brick building sits on a limestone block foundation and is covered with a modified truncated hipped roof. The building measures twenty-six feet from east to west and eighty-nine feet from north to south.

The Perring Building sits at the western end of a trapezoidal block of seven buildings that span the full block between N. W. 3rd and N. W. 2nd Street. The Perring Building completes the last of a block of buildings known as the Post Office Block. This block was constructed in 1885. The Perring Building mimics its anchor on the east end of the block but is not identical, it is the largest building in the block, standing at the widest end of the trapezoid.

There are two main entrances to the Perring Building, providing the building with both a northern and southern facade. These entrances are angled to meet the intersections of N. W. 3rd and Spruce and N. W. 2nd and Spruce respectively. First level access is also provided by a door that pierces the western wall near its center, access to the second level is provided by a door that pierces the northern facade along its eastern wall. Basement access is provided below grade at the southwest corner of the building.

The building is a rectangle with truncated corners. Its character defining stylistic elements are derived from the Italianate and Romanesque traditions. A pressed metal entablature with prominent brackets graces the roof line. The brackets are triangular with fluted shafts, triangular pendants project from the upper part of the bracket. A smaller bracket punctuates the frieze between each large bracket. A repeating design course of a triangle surrounding a trefoil decorates the architrave. A corbelled brick course delineates the first and second stories.

A limestone stringcourse runs above and below the second story windows. Fenestration on the building is comprised primarily of 1/1 double hung, rectangular windows. Tooled, limestone lug arch lintels surmount the first level rectangular windows, they are underscored by tooled limestone sills. Louvered shutters accentuate all of the second level windows, they are closed. A recessed panel sets off each of the single second level windows in the two angled entry bays.

Two sets of double round arch, 4/1 double hung sash windows fenestrate the south and west by southwest elevations on the first level, directly flanking the angled entry bay. These windows are surmounted by a corbelled brick, double round arch, resting on three limestone capitals decorated with vegetal scrolling. A similar fenestration treatment likely existed on the north and west by northwest elevations, these window groups have been replaced by two rectangular, single pane picture windows.

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Most of the below grade windows have been filled in with brick and the wells have been covered over by the concrete sidewalks. The one exception is found in the below grade entry well.

Four transomed doorways provide street level access into the building. The two prominent doorways are contained in the angled corner bays that face the intersections of N. W. 3rd and Spruce and N. W. 2nd and Spruce. Wide brick pilasters flank these doorways, rising from a limestone base. The pilasters are broken midway by a limestone course and terminate in a limestone capital with an egg and dart frieze. The southwestern doorway retains its round arch transom and is surmounted by a carved, limestone arch lintel. The spandrels and keystone of the arch contain vegetal carvings. The pilaster capitals provide the impost for the arch. The original configuration of the northwest doorway has been altered. The round arch transom and round arch lintel have been removed and the wall space filled in with brick. A rectangular transom stands in its place. The doorways both contain plate glass doors with wooden surrounds.

In its original configuration the interior space was comprised of a three offices on the first level and a large open space with several small rooms on the second level. The 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates that a music store, an office and a pool and billiard hall occupied the first floor of the building. Partition walls have been added to create additional office space on the first level. The original tin ceiling is intact. The upper portion of the wooden window surrounds on the first level have been remilled, these were destroyed when the ceiling was dropped. The first level houses the real estate offices of Etherington and Company.

The second level of the building is used for low level storage. Historically it provided a meeting hall for the Knights of Columbus and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The basement once housed L. E. Perring's restaurant, it is now vacant.

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The Perring Building (c. 1902- 1904) is being nominated to the National Register for its architectural significance as an example of a two-part commercial block. The Perring Building sits at the western end of a trapezoidal block of seven buildings that span the full block between N. W. 3rd and N. W. 2nd Street. The Perring Building completes the last of a block of buildings known as the Post Office Block. This block was constructed in 1885. The Perring Building mimics its anchor on the east end of the block but is not identical, it is the largest building in the block, standing at the widest end of the trapezoid.

Richard Longstreth writes about the two-part commercial block in The Buildings of Main Street: A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. "The two-part commercial block is the most common type of composition used for small and moderate sized commercial buildings throughout the country. Generally limited to structures of two to four stories, this type is characterized by a horizontal division of two distinct zones. These zones may be similar while clearly separated from one another; they may be harmonious, but quite different in character; or they may have little visual relationship. The two-part division reflects differences in use inside. The single-story lower zone, at street level, indicates public spaces such as retail store, a banking room, insurance or hotel lobby. The upper zone suggests more private spaces, including offices, hotel rooms or a meeting hall. The type has been used to accommodate a wide range of functions and is readily found in almost all forms of commercial development, dominating the core of small cities and towns as well as many neighborhood commercial areas."

The building is a rectangle with truncated corners. Its character defining stylistic elements are derived from the Italianate and Romanesque traditions. The two-story red brick building sits on a limestone block foundation and is covered with a modified truncated hipped roof. A pressed metal entablature with prominent brackets graces the roof line. A limestone stringcourse runs above and below the second story windows. In its original configuration the interior space was comprised of a three offices on the first level and a large open space with several small rooms on the second level.

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When Leslie E. Perring purchased the property in 1898 its southern portion contained a small cigar shop. Perring constructed a temporary building to the north of the cigar shop from which he operated a restaurant. In 1902 Perring took out a mortgage for \$2,000 on the property and began construction on the Perring Building. The building was completed by 1904, when Perring sold it to his mother for \$9,000.

The 1904 City Directory for Abilene places George C. Anderson and Cooperative Burial as tenants in the southern portion of the building, the L. E. Perring Restaurant occupied the basement. The 1905 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map indicates that on the first level of the building a music store was housed in northern portion, an office in the center, and a pool and billiard hall in the southern portion.

Throughout the next fifty year the Perring Building housed several long-term tenants on the first level including Woolverton and Wyandt, insurance, mortgage, and real estate broker, and Western Union. The first level of the Perring Building has always been full, housing various other tenants including physicians and the county soil conservation service. In the 1970s the Etherington family purchased the building and uses the first level for their real estate offices.

The second level of the building is used for low level storage. Historically it provided a meeting hall for the Knights of Columbus and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The basement originally housed L. E. Perring's restaurant, it is now vacant.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Abilene City Directories, 1900- 1976.

Abilene Reflector, 1900- 1976.

Longstreth, Richard. The Buildings of Main Street, A Guide to American Commercial Architecture. (Washington: Preservation Press, 1987).

Past and Present, Progress and Prosperity. (Abilene: Freeman Publishing, 1910).

Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps, Abilene. 1884, 1887, 1892, 1905.

Scholl, Nanc. "Perring Building." (National Register nomination draft, 1995).

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The nominated property stands on Lot Seven (7), Henry, Hodge and Reed's Sub-division of Lots Two (2), Four (4), Six (6), Eight (8) and Ten (10), North Third Street, Thompson and McCoy's Addition to Abilene, Kansas. The property is bounded to the north by Northwest 3rd Street, to the west by Spruce Street, to the south by Northwest 2nd Street, and to the east by the adjoining building.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The boundary includes the entire parcel that is historically associated with the nominated property.